

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 1 as follows:

Next, core material having favorable appearance of the vacuum heat insulating material is prepared. Specifically, fibers consisting of inorganic fibers having Si-OH groups and Si-H₃O⁺ groups at the surface is prepared at first. Then, the fiber material is subjected to ~~compression or~~ heat compression to obtain a structured body that can be handled easily. This structured body is used as core material. The wording "core material having favorable appearance" herein means core material by which the heat insulating material may have a smooth surface. When the inner face of an outer box of a heat insulation box of a refrigerator is adhered with a vacuum heat insulating material and the space between the inner box and the outer box is filled with heat insulation foam, convexities and concavities at the surface of the vacuum heat insulating material tend to appear as convexities and concavities at the outer box of the refrigerator. When the thickness of an adhesive agent is increased until convexities and concavities at the surface of the vacuum heat insulating material are covered, on the other hand, the heat insulation box becomes to have deteriorated heat insulation performance. Thus, core material by which heat insulating material can have a smooth surface is preferable. By subjecting the fiber to heat compression to have an appropriate density, fibers adjacent to one another are adhered by the hydrogen bonding, thereby providing a structured body. When the fiber material is heated while being compressed, the dehydration reaction may change Si-H₃O⁺ groups to Si-OH groups. Thus, the Si-OH/Si-O ratio of obtained core material is preferably equal to or higher than 0.1 and equal to or lower than 20. The processing as described above provide a sufficient strength required for maintaining a structured body that can be handled easily.